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## THE ROSE OF SHARON

The rose of Sharon (Cant. 2:11) is the autumn-flowering pale-lilac *meadow-saffron*, i. e. *Colchicum autumnale* (BL 117, l. 7) in the park-like tract (about 8-12 miles wide and 44 miles long) of the Palestinian Maritime Plain extending along the Mediterranean from Joppa to Mt. Carmel. DB 4, 477<sup>b</sup> says of Sharon: Throughout its whole extent it is gay with myriads of brightly colored flowers (*cf.* BL 115). Sharon is not a proper name, but a common noun; it is therefore used with the article (GK § 125, d). Nor is it connected with *mišôr*, plain; it is not level, but undulating; there are groups of hills 250-300 feet high. *Sharôn* is a form like *raçôn* from *raçâ*, *tertîæ* *u*; the stem is *šarâ* (=Arab. *šarâ-šâtrâ*) from which *mišrâ*, juice, is derived (see above, p. 144).<sup>1</sup> Similarly we have *hazôn*, vision; *ga'ôn*, highness; *iağôn*, grief; *'auôn*, sin, from *hazâ*, *ga'â*, *iağâ*, *'auâ*; but *zağôn*, insolence; *hamôn*, roar; *ša'ôn*, crash; *lašôn*, tongue, must be derived from stems *mediæ* *u* or *i* (see *Mic.* 76). The meaning of *šarôn* is *luxuriance* (Assyr. *mešrû*). Sharon was famous for its luxuriant vegetation (Is. 35:2). We might render it The Park (*cf.* the name *Carmel* derived from *kârm*, garden, especially *vineyard*). EB 4431 states: There is a long extent of park-like scenery in the neighborhood of Mukhâlid in the very North. Formerly there were large oak-groves; therefore 𐤂 renders in Is. 33:9, 35:2, 65:10: 𐤂 *δρυμός*.

PAUL HAUPT.

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HEB. *AMŠ*, YESTERDAY = ASSYR. *INA MÛŠI*, AT NIGHT

In my paper on Heb. *mašâl* (above, p. 140 ff.) I have combined Assyr. *ina mûši mašli*, at midnight, with Arab. *mâlta*, in the beginning of the night. This semantic difference is not exceptional: Assyr. *lîlâtî* (= Heb. *lêlôtî*) means *evening*, and *mûšu* (for *muššu*, *mušîu*) denotes *night*, while in Arabic and the other Semitic languages *lâilah* (Ethiop. *lêlît*) is used for *night*,

<sup>1</sup> According to König's *Wörterbuch* (1910) *mišrâ* denotes *marmalade*.